GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6240
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICAL DYES
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

e:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of chemical dyes are manufactured in the country as reported in Time of India dated 19 March 2003;

(b) if so, the estimated quantities manufactured each year indicating the estimated value thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that NBRI Lucknow and other organizations have been promoting plant based herbal colours instead of synthetic dyes as these are harmful to health;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether BSI have made any standards for herbal colours specially for their safety;

(f) whether it is a fact that herbal colours are more expensive leading to sellers passing on synthetic colours as herbal colours;

(g) whether any sample testing has been made in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS : (Dr. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Chemical Dyes are manufactured in the country in substantial quantity for various applications such as in Textiles, Plastic, Rubber Paper, Leather and food etc. Total production of

Chemical Dyes for the past three years in the organized sector as reported by manufacturing units is as under.

Year	Production in MTs.
1999-2000	28306 MTs.
2000-2001	28788 MTs.
2001-2002	24399 MTs
2002-2003	30400 MTs

(anticipated)

The value of production is not monitored.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) hasinitiated R&D programmes to develop plant based herbal colours and edible pigments at two of its constituent laboratories, namely National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI),Lucknow and Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI),Mysore. NBRI has developedprocess for eco-friendly herbal gulal which has been commercialized. The herbal gulal in various shades has been well received among the consumers. NBRI has also isolated about fifteen plant based colour shades. CFTRI has isolated and developed food colours suchas red colour from beet root, kokum and chilies, yellow colour from safflower and turmeric, pink colour from grapes, and orange colour from annatto seed.

(e) to (h) BIS hasnot published any standard for Herbal Colours HerbalColours stated to be are more expensive than Synthetic Colours. The cost, however, depends upon the availability of quality of raw material, the extraction process employed and the type of colour.